Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity with the ever increasing pollution load due to rapid urbanization and increase in population. Review of the strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers is a continuous process. Due to continuous increase in the population resulting in increased pollution load, and gap in the availability of financial resources to take up works commensurate with the requirements, there is likely to be persistent divergence between the tackled pollution load and the actual pollution load.

Ganga Action Plan Phase I and II

2219. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) the amount spent on cleansing of Ganga after Ganga Action Plan Phase I;

(b) the details of works done in Ganga Action Plan Phase II;

(c) the remaining works and by when these are likely to be completed;

(d) the present quality of Ganga water with technical details and the minimum prescribed standards; and

(e) whether further improvements are likely in the quality of water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) An expenditure of Rs. 312.67 crore has been incurred as on 31st December, 2007 for undertaking various pollution abatement measures for the river Ganga under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan after Ganga Action Plan (GAP), Phase-I. A total of 163 works of pollution abatement have been completed under the GAP, Phase-II so far resulting in creation of 101 million litres per day of sewage treatment capacity. These works include interception and diversion of raw sewage, setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants for treating the diverted sewage, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, setting up of electric/improved wood crematoria and River Front Development among others.

(c) As river conservation is a continuous/dynamic activity, additional projects of pollution abatement are sanctioned by the Government from time to time under the GAP-II taking into account the pollution hotspots, proposals received from the State Government and availability of financial resources. In this regard, all the concerned State Governments have been advised to complete the 117 ongoing sanctioned works by the Financial Year 2009-10.

(d) and (e) The values of Dissolved Oxygen (DO) & Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), key indicators of water quality, at major locations along the river Ganga in 1986 and 2007, *vis-a-vis* prescribed standards are indicated in the statement (*See* below). This shows that there has been a discernible improvement in the water quality of the river over its pre-GAP quality. However, besides pollution abatement initiatives, the water quality of the river is also impacted by a host of factors which include minimum flows in the river, proper Operation & Maintenance of the assets like Sewage Treatment Plants, Crematoria etc., development of sewerage/civic infrastructure within the cities/towns, among others.

Statement

Water Quality Data for River Ganga
(Summer Average *i.e.* March-June)

Sl.No.	Station/Location	1986		2007	
		DO (mg/l)	BOD (mg/l)	DO (mg/l)	BOD (mg/l)
1.	Rishikesh	8.1	1.7	8.20	1.20
2.	Hardwar D/s	8.1	1.8	8.10	1.30
3.	Garhmukteshwar	7.8	2.2	7.90	2.0
4.	Kannauj U/S	7.2	5.5	6.80	1.77
5.	Kannauj D/S	NA	NA	6.40	4.10
6.	Kanpur U/S	7.2	7.2	5.80	2.90
7.	Kanpur D/S	6.7	8.6	4.60	5.20
8.	Allahabad U/S	6.4	11.4	7.97	7.50
9.	Allahabad D/S	6.6	15.5	8.83	4.13
10.	Varanasi U/S	5.6	10.1	8.06	2.34
11.	Varanasi D/S	5.9	10.6	8.36	3.69
12.	Patna U/S	8.4	2.0	7.1	1.68
13.	Patna D/S	8.1	2.2	6.9	1.83
14.	Rajmahal	7.8	1.8	7.42	1.63
15.	Palta	NA	NA	6.92	2.63
16.	Uluberia	NA	NA	6.80	3.21

Prescribed standards for Bathing Water Quality: DO equal to or more than 5.0 mg/l
BOD equal to or less than 3.0 mg/l

Death of tigers in Jim Corbett Park

2220. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five tigers died in Jim Corbett Park during the last quarter of 2007;

(b) if so, details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) the number of tigers now in the Park; and

(d) special steps taken to protect the existing tigers in the Park?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) As reported by the State, tigers deaths have been reported on 22.9.2007, 31.10.2007 and 31.10.2007/1.11.2007 in the Corbett Tiger Reserve of Uttarakhand.